

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11103 051325Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----056203 051326Z /43

R 051245Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6883
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11103

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, LE, US, IS, SY, SA
SUBJECT: REBUILDING THE LEBANESE ARMY: U.S. ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 155131

1. IN MY JUDGMENT, GOE WOULD WELCOME USG ASSISTANCE TO ACCELERATE REBUILDING A LEBANESE ARMY. WHILE SADAT MAY HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT POSSIBILITY RE-ESTABLISHING A VIABLE LEBANESE ARMY, HE NEVERTHELESS FAVORS THE CONCEPT. BOTH HE AND FAHMY SEE REESTABLISHED LEBANESE ARMY AS A PREREQUISITE TO SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. WITHOUT SUCH A FORCE, THEY ARE KEENLY AWARE, IT IS DIFFICULT PRESS SYRIANS TO BEGIN WITHDRAWAL. DESPITE SURFACE APPEARANCES OF EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN RAPPROCHMENT, SADAT AND FAHMY REMAIN DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS THAT ASAD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE IS TO ANNEX ALL OR PART OF LEBANON. THE LONGER SYRIANS ARE IN LEBANON, THE GREATER IS THE DANGER OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. HENCE, SADAT AND FAHMY TEND TO SUPPORT ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH PROMISES TO MAKE LEBANESE
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SECURITY LESS DEPENDENT UPON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF LARGE SYRIAN FORCES.

2. EXTENT TO WHICH SADAT WOULD SUPPORT SARKIS' USE OF RE-ESTABLISHED LEBANESE ARMY AGAINST CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM AND PALESTINIANS WOULD VARY. HE WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT USE OF ARMY AGAINST CHRISTIANS, BUT WOULD BE LEARY SHOULD

IT BE PROPOSED TO USE IT AGAINST MUSLIMS OR FATAH. HE
WOULD NOT OBJECT SHOULD IT BE USED AGAINST PALESTINIAN
REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS. SHOULD SARKIS AT ANY TIME PLAN
TO USE IT AGAINST MUSLIMS OR PALESTINIANS, HE WOULD BE
WELL ADVISED TO KEEP SADAT FULLY INFORMED OF HIS
INTENTIONS IF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT IS WANTED.

3. GOE LACKS FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO CONTRIBUTE TO
REBUILDING LEBANESE ARMY.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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